

Marshfield and Plainfield Energy and Climate Change committee
Monthly meeting minutes, February 3rd, 2019, 7:00pm
Upstairs library area

Committee members in attendance: Nick Seifert, Amanda Carlson, Becky Wigg, Wes Cate, Anne Miller

Members of the public in attendance: Diana Batzel, Rich Phillips, Michael Billingsly

- Select a facilitator
 - Amanda volunteered
- Public comment
 - Amanda is leaving the MECCC, she is moving to Plainfield. She will probably still be involved.
 - Michael asked about combining efforts of Plainfield and Marshfield energy committees.
 - Nick suggested adding this to the agenda for March.
- Announcements
 - Michael attended a Roger Hill talk recently. The topic was climate change. Most of the update was indicating that the timeline for ill effects of climate change.
 - Michael mentioned there is a meeting in Randolph tomorrow (Wednesday) about how to survive a long-term electrical outage.
 - Michael mentioned that he received a wood stove through the voucher program, which replaced a stove from 1975. The model is "Blaze King". ⅓ less wood use already.
 - Amanda mentioned the legislature's Climate Caucus is meeting tomorrow at 6-7:30pm at the state house. Legislative updates and agenda for the session.
 - Bob had various announcements:
 - 2/4 and 2/5 is "Better Buildings by Design".
 - 2/6 in Plainfield is a presentation by the Conservation Commission (7pm at the Plainfield Town Hall) about the Emerald Ash Borer
 - 2/7 noon at the state house - Climate Pandemonium by Extinction Rebellion. At 4pm there will people departing to try and steer the democratic debate towards climate change.
 - 2/15 Clark Lecture series at the Unitarian Church in Montpelier at 6pm. \$20 or donation. Dinner and lecture. Utah's Green River, environs and more.
 - 2/18 "Collectively Processing the Climate Emergency" at the Kellogg Hubbard Library 6:30-8:30pm.
- Approval of previous minutes
 - Motion and approval of minutes.
- Business
 - Book / Movie purchases - 5 min
 - Anne would like to buy "Why we are hardwired to ignore climate change". It talks about why the human brain has a difficult time handling it. She thinks it will be no more than \$30.
 - Agriculture and climate change series updates -5 min
 - The first session was last Wednesday, she had about 10 people. The speaker started simple for the audience, so didn't get to the topics she was hoping he would cover.
 - The next session is this coming Saturday at 2pm. The topic is permaculture and design.
 - The 29th is about seed varieties.
 - Marshfield dam discussion (if needed) - 10 min
 - Michael recapped his comments from the last MECCC meeting, regarding the final trial hearing, the sharing of meeting minutes, etc. The date was reset for 3 weeks after the transcript was sent out. Michael mentioned the two things he was most interested in were: 1) when they quizzed the dam engineer she had revealed she was unaware of the May 2011 high water event. It seems that GMP may have withheld this information from her, deliberately or not. 2) during the GMP presentation at the Old Schoolhouse Common in 2018, Jason LeSai (sp?) and John Greenan answered a lot of questions, which

was recorded on video. During the recent hearing both Jason and John indicated they were not employed by GMP during the May 2011 event, and this directly contradicts things that were said during that recorded event from 2018.

- Sasha Thayer rewrote their submission, with the minutes available, and including the two above points. She also wrote a recommendation about the order of events which the dam repair work would be completed to ensure that the towns of Marshfield and Plainfield would be protected. About a week later GMP's lawyer submitted a letter complaining about the new submission. That letter asked the hearing officer to throw out any new points raised by Plainfield that were not in their original submission.
- The hearing officer ruled today (2-3/2020) that these new points would not be removed. He said he needs another week to review and rule on these submissions by Plainfield.
- Michael has recommended that people write to Sasha and thank her for her hard work on this. Selectboard11@gmail.com

○ Model communities / RAMP program update - 5 min

- Diana gave a brief update on solar. A subcommittee met on this, but are still working on some ideas. They are thinking about writing a letter to each of the schoolboard members and the case for solar.
 - Michael asked about adding battery back-up to this project.
 - Diana indicated that this has been part of the discussion.
 - Michael also mentioned his conversation with GMP about storage and backup for emergency purposes.
- Anne mentioned that on Tuesday (2/4) at 5:00pm someone will be here to look for a "hitching post" location for Marshfield. They'll be speaking at the selectboard at 5:30pm. This costs around \$500 to add.
 - Amanda mentioned VNRC grants (small grants for smart growth) which may help fund this.
 - Bob mentioned that he presented at the Plainfield selectboard. Bob wasn't a big fan of the presentation, and his general approach to this.
 - The next committee meeting is 2/20 at 6:30, at the OSC.

○ Town meeting update - 10 min

- Tabling at town meeting:
 - Weatherization signups
 - And associated flyers
 - Wood stove incentive flyer
 - Nick will send Wes wood stove incentive flyer
 - EVT flyers
 - EV program "car talk" event on 3/14
 - Diana suggested asking EVT if they have any "eye candy" type things for drawing people towards the table.
 - Amanda volunteered to do this.
 - Diana suggested an update on the school improvements.
 - Anne suggested photos of the school improvements which have been done.
 - Michael volunteered to write a wood stove testimonial.
- Anne would like to arrange carpooling to town meeting. She is suggesting set a place / time for people to meet and then let people self-organize.
 - Nick volunteered to post to FPF if Anne provides a write up.
- Plainfield update - 5 min
 - Bob has a resolution involving a declaration of a climate emergency. Some key points include: tell the truth, realize the goals we set aren't happening / realistic, listen to the youth, make sure it is equitable and just. It is too late for petitions, so Bob intends to present it from the floor. Bob is working with Jim Bolls (sp?) on this (Jim is the former PUC commissioner)
 - Plainfield has Municipal building work to do. They have not leased out the upstairs of the building where the supervisory office was. They're going to use this vacancy opportunity to try and improve this.

- Draft agenda for next meeting
 - Select a Facilitator
 - Public comment
 - Announcements
 - Approval of Previous Minutes
 - Business
 - Book / Movie purchases (if needed)
 - Discussion about Marshfield / Plainfield “existential” discussion around committees / RAMP combination
 - Agriculture and climate change series updates
 - Marshfield dam discussion (if needed)
 - Model communities / RAMP program update
 - Town meeting update
 - Plainfield update
 - Draft agenda for next meeting